

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND ELECTION OF SPECIES
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/544,543

REMARKS

The specification is amended. Applicant submits that such amendments do not add any new matter and respectfully requests entry of the amendments.

In response to the election requirement in the Office Action mailed September 26, 2001, for the purposes of prosecution, Applicant hereby elects the species identified by Characteristics 1B and 2B, without traversal.

The Examiner has indicated that Figs. 8, 11-20 and 48 are associated with the elected combination of Characteristics 1B and 2B. The Examiner has not indicated a Characteristic to which Figs. 21-24 or 49-51 relate. Applicant asserts that Figs. 21-24 and 49-51 relate to the elected combination of Characteristics 1B and 2B. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the elected combination of Characteristics includes Figs. 8, 11-24 and 48-51.

Applicant asserts that the following claims read on the elected species: Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 11-27 and 30.

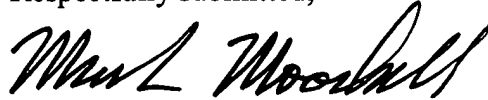
The Examiner has indicated that no claim appears generic. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Rather, Applicant asserts that Claims 1, 2, 4, 11 and 12 are generic to all ten combinations of species identified by the Examiner.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Paragraph bridging page 6 and page 7:

In the present invention, the first hole is not formed over the entire surface of the platen but locally at a position corresponding to the top end of a recording material when data are recorded on the recording medium without leaving a margin on the top end. A positioning-function section for holding the recording material in position is left in the area on the surface of the platen opposite the recording head. When data are recorded on the recording medium without leaving a margin on the top end of the recording medium, the ink squirted outside the top end is guided to the first hole. The recording material is firmly held in position relative to the recording head. In a case where data are recorded on the recording medium without leaving a margin on the top end of the recording medium, the chance of the recording material being stained with the thus-discarded ink is significantly lowered. During a printing operation, the recording material is firmly held in position, thus preventing a decrease in quality.

Paragraph bridging page 44 and page 45:

In contrast with a standard print processing operation in which paper is fed by the amount corresponding to seven rasters, paper is fed by the amount corresponding to four rasters during an intermediate processing operation, thus forming a raster (designated by the primary scanning operation P5 shown in FIG. 43). The significance of four rasters will be described later. Next,

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paper is fed by the amount corresponding to three rasters, thus forming rasters (designated by the primary scanning operations P6 through P8 shown in FIG. [16]43). As in the case of, for example, the first nozzle employed in the primary scanning operation 7, a nozzle is present in the raster position where a dot has already been formed. In this case, the nozzle masks the dot formation data so as not to form a dot. The location where the primary scanning operation P8 shown in FIG. 43 is performed is a critical location where paper feeding can be effected while the accuracy of paper feeding is ensured. In other words, the bottom of the recording paper 4 is at a position immediately before release from the paper feed roller 8.

Page 57, sole full paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 24, through holes 1, 2, 3, and 4 are formed in the platen. In the present embodiment, the recording medium [5]50 is transported in the secondary scanning direction while one side of the recording medium [5]50 aligned with the through hole 1 is taken as a reference. The other side of the recording medium [5]50 assumes a different position according to the width of the recording medium [5]50. The through holes 2, 3, and 4 are formed in the platen so as to cope with the other side of the recording medium [5]50 of any size that can be accommodated by the recording apparatus. In the present embodiment, the through holes 2, 3, and 4 are formed in the respective spaces between the protuberances 14, and each of the respective through holes 1, 2, 3, and 4 is filled with an ink—absorbing material 7. Detailed description of the through holes 1, 2, 3, and 4 and of how the ink-absorbing material 7 is fitted into the through holes 1 through 4 will be provided later. In FIG. 24, reference numeral 5

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designates an aperture for so-called flushing purpose (a squirting-ability restoration operation), and reference numeral 6 designates an indentation.

Page 79, last full paragraph:

A method of feeding paper in the ink-jet recording apparatus of 20 the present invention will now be described by reference to FIGS. 53 through [66]67. Throughout these drawings, like reference numerals designate like elements. However, the reference numerals are irrelevant to those employed in other drawings. Hence, the reference numerals may designate different elements from those designated in other drawings.